

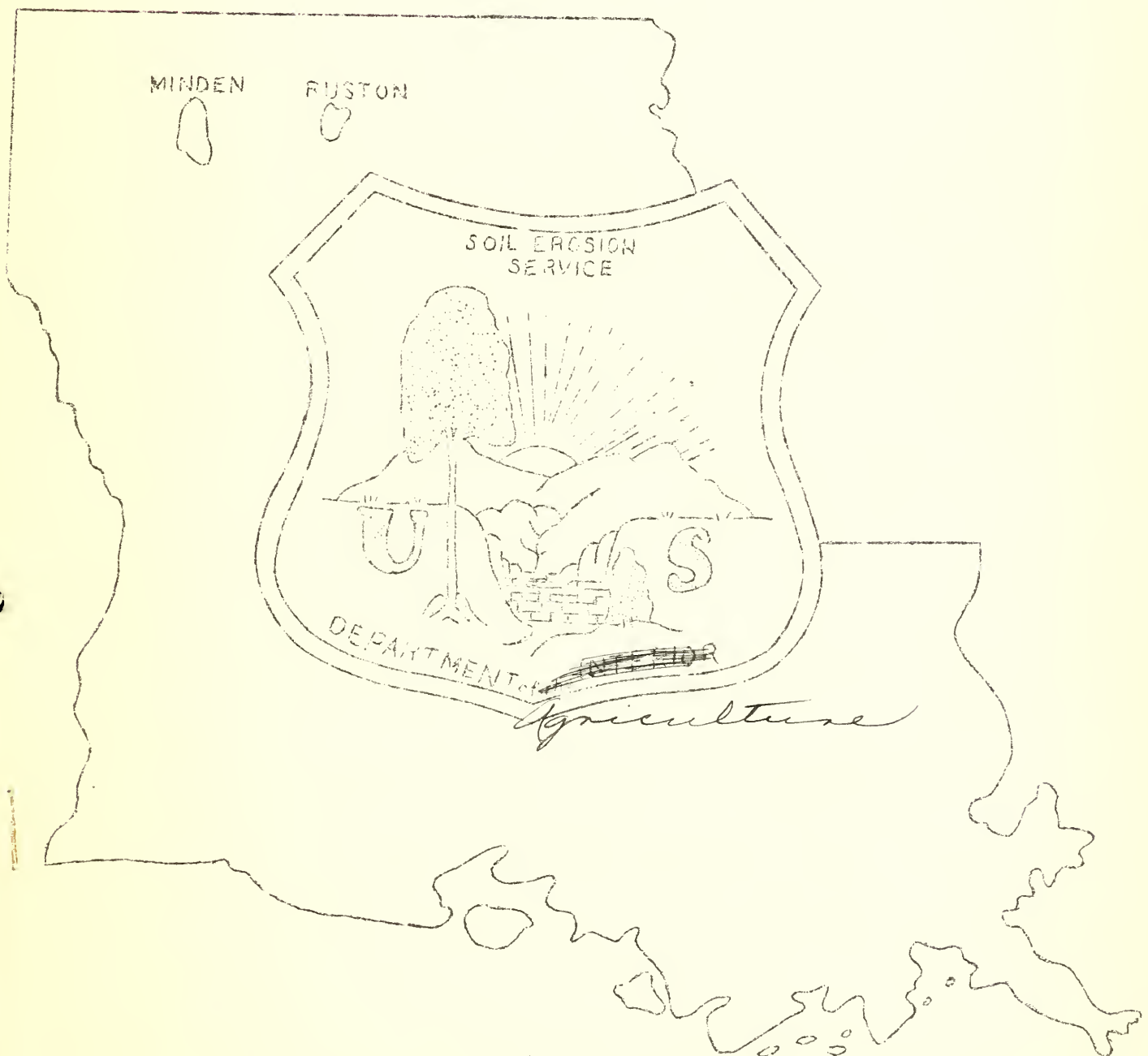
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A pril, 1935
Y.L. Noid

THE BRUSHY-COOLEY-CYPRESS CREEK

NEWS



PROJECT 15
MINDEN LA.

Inspection Day

Plans are now in the making for the holding of a great inspection day to be held at Ruston on Friday, May 10.

A route, which will cover a large portion of the area in Lincoln parish, is being worked out for this occasion.

The itinerary over the area is being planned with the purpose in view of showing the visitors to Ruston on the designated day every phase of the work which is being put into operation on the farms of co-operators.

Full details of the program and activities for the day will be announced at an early date in the newspapers.

In the News

Below we are reproducing a news story which has been carried during the past few days by most of the daily and weekly papers of Louisiana. To the newspaper fraternity and members of the staff of the Soil Erosion Service this item may be classed as "big news".

Dr. Bennett's visit to Louisiana, we are sure, is being looked forward to with real interest by those who will be fortunate enough to attend the newspaper convention in New Orleans.

DR. HUGH H. BENNETT WILL BE MAIN
SPEAKER AT NEWSPAPER CONVENTION

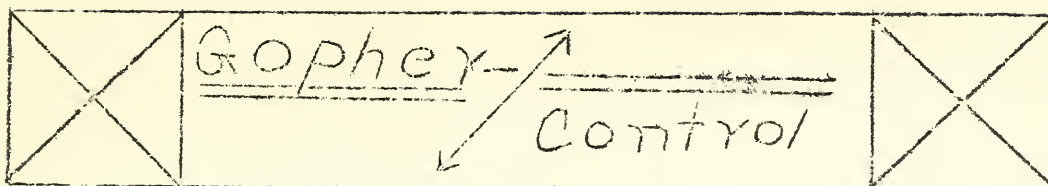
Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, Director of the U. S. Soil Erosion Service, has accepted an invitation to be the principal speaker before the five-state--National Editorial Association convention meeting at New Orleans on Saturday, May 4.

H. M. Mims, Acting Regional Director of Project 15 of the Soil Erosion Service, headquarters at Minden, Louisiana, was advised of the definite acceptance of the speaking engagement today by Dr. Bennett, who expressed himself as honored and pleased with the opportunity of speaking before such a large group of newspaper editors.

The invitation to Dr. Bennett was extended through Mr. Isaac Chapman, Secretary of the Louisiana Press Association. On May 4 the press associations of the state of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Florida will meet in joint session along with first-day arrivals who come to New Orleans for the National Editorial Association convention which will be held from May 4 through May 12.

Dr. Bennett, who is a national and world figure in the field of agriculture, is most prominently known at this time because of his amazing organization and executive ability in establishing and carrying on the work of the Soil Erosion Service. Dr. Bennett is widely known as an excellent and informative speaker and is expected to bring a message of vital interest to the gathering of newspaper editors at New Orleans.

According to those in charge of the meeting, all indications point toward an unusually large attendance for the Saturday luncheon atop the Roosevelt Hotel.



By J. W. Hamnett

We are presenting herewith a full report on the gopher control poisoning work which has been going on in the area of Project 15 since January 1. The cost of poisoning has been less than one cent per acre--to be exact .0089 per acre, thus demonstrating just how cheaply this important work can be carried on. Report of work done to date is as follows:

Acres poisoned	67,783
Farms poisoned.....	693
Man days labor.....	2,177
Oz. Strychnine used.....	672
Oz. Borax used.....	672
Lbs. sweet potatoes used.....	13,640

STOP
Terrace breaks —
Control
gophers

RE-POISONING WORK DONE

Acres re-poisoned.....	2,619
Farms re-poisoned.....	25
Man days labor.....	67
Oz. Strychnine used.....	13
Oz. Borax used.....	13
Lbs. sweet potatoes used....	271

Reduce
gullying hazards —
Control
gophers

Farmers upon whose land the poisoning work has been completed are urged to watch their fields and pastures closely for new mounds. In instances where it is found that there are two or three gophers working traps may be secured for the trapping of these few animals.

On any area where it is evident that there may be five or more gophers working in a single field it will probably be better to re-poison such fields. If farmers will report such instances to either the Minden or Ruston office we will be glad to furnish materials and labor to do this clean-up work.

This office is glad at all times to advise with farmers both in and out of the project area on getting rid of these pests.

April 15, 1935

The BRUSHY-COOLEY-CYPRESS CREEK

NEWS

Issued at Minden, Louisiana by
the SOIL EROSION SERVICE, De-
partment of Agriculture. Pro-
ject No. 15, Webster and Lin-
coln Parishes
H. M. Mims, Acting Regional Dir.

Vol. 1

No. 10

Harold G. Anthony, Editor

ARE WE WORTHWHILE?

Project 15 of the Soil Ero-
sion Service has reached its
first birthday. The Service in
North Louisiana has grown from an
idea into a lusty one-year-old
organization, already far re-
moved from the "swaddling-
clothes" era.

In face of the fact that a
great amount of work has been
done on a large number of farms
within the area, still it may
be truthfully stated that the
surface has hardly been scratch-
ed.

Many problems have been
faced, attacked and finally
overcome in the first year of
our existence. Members of the
staff have worked long hours,
toiled tirelessly to the point of
physical exhaustion. Mistakes
have been made, but cheerfully
corrected, once known. Tempers
and patience have strained to
the breaking point at times, but
rapidly slid back into the even-
keel groove of tolerant co-opera-

tion.

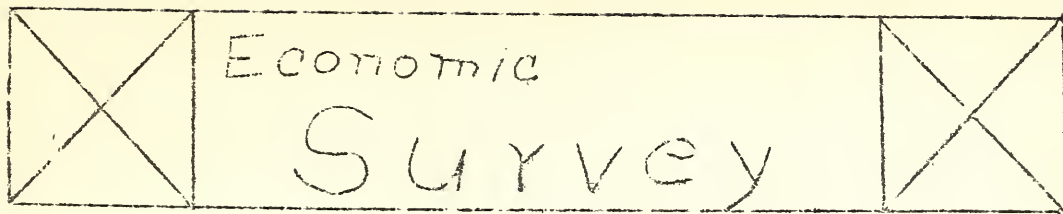
It is not without a pride-
ful feeling of accomplishment
that we make a mental inventory
of the work of the past twelve
months. We are convinced that
we can see a very definite val-
ue added to the many farms
upon which we have put our pro-
gram of erosion control. We do
not reach this belief in any
spirit of back-patting egotism,
but have the enthusiastic word
of dozens of farm co-operators
to this effect.

We know that whatever de-
gree of success has been reached
during the last twelve-month
could never have been realized
if we had not had the unstinted
support, help and co-operation
of the farmers of our area. To
them we give credit and praise;
to them we are grateful. It has
been and will continue to be a
real pleasure to work with the
fine people of Webster and Lin-
coln Parishes. To our co-opera-
tors, then, we gladly and will-
ingly give more than half the
credit for whatever success has
been attained.

Are we worthwhile? Is the
work of the Soil Erosion Ser-
vice proving out? Are our ini-
tial aims reflected in the final
attainment of the work which we
have set out to accomplish?

It is only natural that the
organization personnel should
feel that the Service, locally
and nationally, is eminently
worthwhile. And yet we would not
be the sold judge of our own
work.

"Ask anyone we serve" -
that is our reference and theirs
the opinion which is final and
most correct.



Economic Survey

By K. A. Shafer

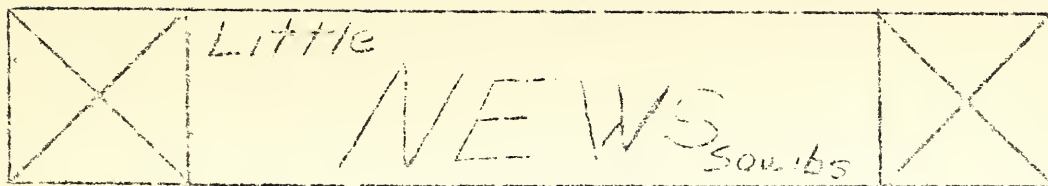
The economic survey that is being made of the area of Project 15 is nearing completion. In a preliminary analysis of the data several significant relationships were apparent. The results are substantially in agreement with the conditions assumed to prevail among the people living in the area. The importance of the data, however, does not lie alone in the support which they give current opinions but in the furnishing of economic information of such a concise and objective form as to enable the subsequent evaluation of the benefits accruing through the Soil Erosion Service program.

Distinctions were made between white and colored owners and tenants for the following information. (See table on opposite page). It must be remembered that these figures are only tentative and subject to change in the final analysis.

From these data it is at once apparent that the classification into white and negro was justified. Any average which neglected this difference would not be typical of either class. Whether as an owner or tenant, the negro attempted to farm more land with less efficiency. Especially does the number of children in the different groupings suggest the importance of the economic factor in the matter of net fertility.

It is hoped that a further and more complete analysis will not only give us a better picture of present conditions but will furnish us with a basis for a sound program in the future.

	OWNERS		TENANTS	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
Volume of business transacted	\$508.00	\$276.00	\$355.00	\$251.00
Average size of farm in acres	102	105	56.3	40.0
Volume of business per acre of land	4.97	2.70	3.78	6.27
Percent of income to farm expense	45	35	55	40
Average number of people in household (at interview)	4.5	4.9	4.4	5.0
Number of children in family	5.7	4.4	3.5	3.6
Average yearly household and personal expense	\$275.00	\$185.00	\$164.00	\$143.00
Average yearly household expense per individual	\$64.00	\$38.00	\$37.00	\$29.00
Annual contribution of farm supplies to family living	\$179.00	\$116.00	\$115.00	\$78.00
Annual contribution per person in household	\$42.00	\$24.00	\$26.00	\$16.00



GOPHER POISONING DEMONSTRATIONS

The demand for demonstrations on methods used in poisoning gophers in the area of Project 15 have increased with amazing rapidity. Infestation appears to be heavy in this section of North Louisiana and farmers, hearing of the success of the poisoning campaign put on on farms of co-operators have asked for information and demonstrations.

Both Mr. Harnett, and Mr. Ed Lee of the Ruston office have made a number of successful demonstrations.

The students wrote a number of feature stories in regard to the work for the issue of the paper which they put out.

TRAINEE CLASSES

Sixteen student trainees on Project 15 have been receiving special instruction in various phases of the erosion control work from Department Heads. The students are apt pupils, interested in the work and anxious to learn of the methods advocated for the control of erosion in this area.

FORESTRY DEMONSTRATION

Grady McCallum of the Ruston office recently put on a forestry demonstration before a large group of interested citizens at Spearsville in Union Parish. Mr. McCallum demonstrated best planting methods, thinning and care of forest plots.

THE SERVICE GROWS

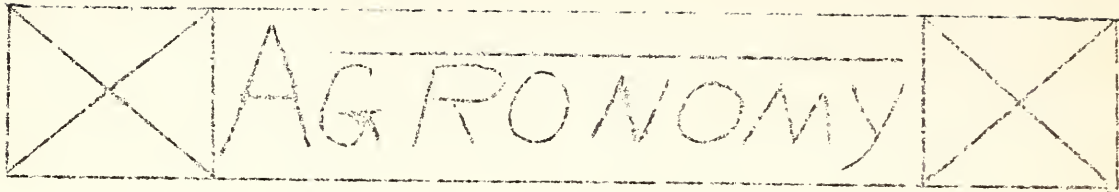
Announcement has been made recently of the establishment of erosion control projects in Kentucky at Paducah and in Colorado at Colorado Springs.

These two projects have a real opportunity for constructive work in the great national erosion control program in their respective areas.

JOURNALISM STUDENTS VISIT PROJECT

Journalism students from the Department of Journalism, Louisiana State University, who recently visited Minden for the purpose of putting out an issue of the Minden Herald, displayed considerable interest in the work of Project 15.

As an important step in protecting Boulder Reservoir from destructive sedimentation, plans have been announced for maintaining a constant check on the amount of silt and other erosional debris deposited in the huge water storage plant by the Colorado River and its tributaries.



By A. C. Morris, Agronomist

The coming of spring has dressed the farms on which the Soil Erosion Service work has been inaugurated in a beautiful striped suit of green and light tan.

The green stripes are made by strips of oats and vetch circling the hillsides on the contour, and the light tan stripes are the spaces between the bands of oats and vetch where the farmers have freshly plowed the land for their clean cultivated crops. During the past month 260 acres of lespedeza were planted with the oats. Nitrate of soda was applied at the rate of 100 pounds per acre on 1,375 acres of oats and vetch and oats and lespedeza strip crops.

Definite arrangements have been made for an additional thousand acres of summer strip crops, which will consist largely of peas and sorghum drilled in alternate rows about 18 inches apart. These crops, of course, will be planted on the contour and will receive an application of a complete fertilizer containing 84 pounds of available plant food per acre.

Some eighty thousand crowns of kudzu have been planted above gully dams and in other eroded areas for vegetative protection against erosion.

We have several problems to meet in the month of June and are asking for the wholehearted cooperation of those who have signed agreements in working out plans and means for meeting these problems.

First: Some means of harvesting the oat and vetch crop, which at the present time gives promise of making excellent yields, must be considered. Mowing machines and rakes are scarce in this area.

Second-- and probably the most difficult problem will be to be in position to fallow the land where oats and vetch are harvested with a crop of peas and sorghum. This means that the cooperator will have to so plan his farm work so that as soon as the oats and vetch are harvested he will be in position to break the land and plant the peas and sorghum, taking seasonal conditions into consideration.

Our cooperators have been lending themselves whole heartedly to the Soil Erosion Service work and I know each one will do his utmost to carry the plans to completion. Effort is being made by

order to assist the cooperator in carrying out his planned rotation and explain any part of the program which may not be clear to him. Also in making these contacts inspection is being made of various phases of work done by the Soil Erosion Service so that if there is anything needing attention the farmer may be advised of same and any repair work needed may be done. If the problem should require the attention of members of the Soil Erosion Service staff, it is reported to the chief of the respective department is notified. In this manner we are able to acquaint the cooperator with the part of the work he is expected to carry out and at the same time correct any error which might have been made by the Service.

CITIZENS URGED NOT TO REMOVE WHITE
PHOTOGRAPHIC-LOCATION STAKES IN THE
PROJECT AREA.

Citizens living within the area of the Soil Erosion Service project in Webster and Lincoln parishes are urged not to remove from their locations white-topped stakes which will be found at a number of points within both areas.

These stakes have been placed in designated locations in order to be able to locate at future dates the exact positions for taking repeat photographs.

Co-operation of citizens in not removing these white-topped stakes from the places where they may be found, and also in urging children not to destroy them, will be greatly appreciated.

It is necessary to have locations so marked in order to have exact locations of pictures permanently marked so that "before" and "after" views of various treatment methods may be made.

' "There is evidence supporting the belief
' that the work now being carried on by the
' Soil Erosion Service in demonstrational pro-
' jects throughout the country already has a
' present and future value of not less than
' \$5,000,000,000", says Director Hugh H. Ben-
' nett, National Director of the Soil Erosion
' Service.
'



By A. H. Bean, Soils Expert

MARLBOROUGH FINE SANDY LOAM

Marlborough fine sandy loam is found commonly on rather smooth and flat sites in the Southern portions of the watershed of Project 15. It normally consists of a topsoil composed of about 15 inches of a dully gray or yellowish gray rather compact loamy fine sand or fine sandy loam resting directly upon the subsoil of a compact yellow sandy clay.

This soil type is extensively farmed, but is considered a little less fertile and less easy to cultivate than the cuthbert (described in a previous paper). This opinion is caused by the effect of the slower drainage, as evidenced by the yellow subsoil, which keeps the soil cold longer in the spring and does not grow off the crops as fast as does the cuthbert.

The two soils, cuthbert and marlborough, are very closely allied in parent materials and development except that the marlborough is usually found in lower and flatter positions and has a yellow colored subsoil. During drouth periods marlborough seems to hold up longer, due to the greater moisture present, but in wet years the yields will fall below that of cuthbert under the same conditions.

Crops should be planted late on this soil in order that the topsoil has time to dry out and warm up before the seed are planted. Corn, cotton, grasses and late vegetables are adapted to this type of soil, while only fair results are obtained from fruits. The soil is lacking in fertility, lime, organic matter and is very erosive when found on a moderate slope, due to the slow penetration of water.

Gullies on this type of soil are not common.

Mr. Bean reports that a total of 76,800 acres have been mapped by the Soils Department in Webster and Lincoln parishes. This acreage represents mapping on approximately 614 farms. Roughly, this number of acres represents about three-fourths of the area of Project 15.

Pasture

NEW PASTURES SHOULD NOT BE
GRAZED AT THIS
TIME
~~XXX~~

By W. E. Dee, Chief of Range
Management.

Each visit to the improved permanent pastures in our area brings to our mind forcibly that cattle will have to be kept off them for at least two months, if not throughout the entire grazing period.

Plants are no exception to human beings for this reason: Our breathing organs are called lungs, and if our babies were affected with tuberculosis we would take ever precaution and carry out what the medical profession has found best to overcome this disease. If we continue to ignore scientific findings our lungs would be destroyed and we pass on. Now the leaves of plants are the same to our pasture grasses and clovers as lungs are to the human being. The leaves are breathing organs and when young plants are deprived of their breathing organs (the leaves) they are set back or retarded in their growth. Their root systems are penalized and do not penetrate the soil as deeply as they would have if allowed an opportunity to grow more before being grazed.

A dwarfed root system means the loss of many plants during the drouths which seem to have prevailed in these sections for the past few years.

The Federal Government has spent money in an effort to put pastures on farms in the areas that would accept them. Our co-operators have given of their land, labor and teams, as well as time, to improve grazing facilities on the farms--the most needed thing on the farms of North Louisiana.

Pastures have been the foundation of civilization and played an important part in the clothing and feeding of mankind long before cultivated crops were known. Down through the annals of time it has been a practice to rely on pastures in many sections of the nation more than here. A restoration of better agriculture will mean more and better pastures.

This \$1.25 per bushel corn and \$35.00 per ton alhalfa hay that is being hauled over our highways daily can be cut to a minimum if more thought is injected into pasture building and management and more and better land used for growing of pastures.

The Bermuda sod strips that are being transplanted in the pastures are three feet apart and if grazed and treated as our old pastures, it will take years to get a coverage of the land. The runners of the grass creep along the ground and at each joint a root takes hold and this is repeated until the entire surface is covered; whereas, if these runners are grazed or bitten off by stock grazing in new pastures, they have to come from the parent stem and an endless cycle would take place without results of coverage desired for more and better grazing in the future. At the same time this coverage will prevent erosion--"That theft of the night that is worse than any of the public enemies that the press so forcibly sets before us."

In grazing our pastures now while clovers and grasses are small, the animals will not only devour the grasses that have been transplanted and sown, as well as the clovers, but will leave the weeds, thereby giving them an opportunity to choke out the desired forage, since weeds are unpalatable and will not be eaten unless they are the only foodstuff left in the pasture for the animals to eat.

It has been truthfully said that animals grazing a pasture too early can be traced later in the season by the conspicuous absence of desirable vegetation. Early in the season (the stage that our pastures are in now) livestock pick or pull up the young plants, thereby destroying them.

Disposing of weeds, either by pulling, clipping, cutting or by any other method will go a long way toward improving the pastures of this area. Remember: Weeds are just as detrimental to your pasture as they are to your cotton, corn or garden.

A coordinated effort and a cooperative spirit will be highly appreciated by the Soil Erosion Service in carrying out of our request not to graze the pastures put in by the Service until notified.

! ----- !
!
! TAKE CARE OF YOUR PASTURE AND IT !
! WILL GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING TO !
! TAKE CARE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY !
!
! ----- !

INTERESTING FIGURES COMPILED FOLLOWING AN ANALYSIS
OF PASTURAGE ON 256 FARMS IN AREA OF PROJECT 15.

	<u>MILBURN</u>	<u>RUSTON</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Farms Studied.....	151	105	256
Total Acres in Farms.....	19,713	17,674	57,387
Average Acres per Farm.....	131	168	146
Total Acres in Cultivation.....	9,975	6,303	18,273
Average Acres in Cult. per Farm...	66	79	71.4
Acres in Old Open Pasture.....	1,733	1,845	3,578
Acres Old Open Pasture per Farm...	11	17.57	13.2
Number Animal Units.....	1,975	2,100	4,075
Number Animal Units per Farm.....	13	20	15.91
Animal Units per Acre old open Past	1.1	1.1	1.1
Acres Old Open Past. per Animal Uts	.88	.88	.88
Acres Improved Permanent Pasture..	1,131	701	1,832
Acres Supplementary Pasture.....	92	0	92
Acres Imp. Pasture (Retired Cult.)	1,223	701	1,924
Improved Pasture per Farm.....	8.1	6.7	7.51
Animal Units Per A. Imp. Pasture..	1.6	2.99	2.11
Acres Imp. Past. per Animal Unit..	.62	.33	.47
Acres Old and Improved Pasture	2,956	2,546	5,502
Old and Imp. Pasture per Farm, acres	19	24	21.49
Animal Units per A. Old & Imp. Past	.67	.82	.74
Acres Old & Imp. Past per Animal Ut	1.5	1.2	1.35
Acres Requirement per Animal Unit..	2	2	2
<u>Deficit of Pasture per Animal Unit</u>	.5	.8	.65

Forestry

The planting season in the forestry work is now over and all planting operations have been brought to a close. The final report on the plantings which have been during the season just closed is as follows:

Acres agreed to be planted, 1,589.

Acres actually planted, 1,301

Man days of nursery work total 721

Forest acreage which has been placed under management (protect from fire, replant, thin, supervise cutting) totals 17,479 acres.

Fire line protection 16,746 acres.

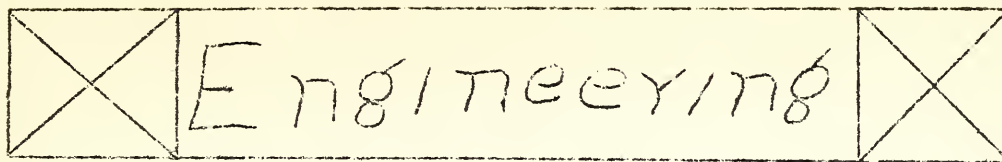
Plantings made to date consist of the following species and numbers: Black walnut, 242,350; loblolly pine, 900,000; slash pine, 500,000; black locust, 256,000; mulberry, 34,000; white oak, 12,000. Total plantings, 1,724,550.

Protect Forests from Fires

There have recently been a number of forest fires in both the Minden and Ruston areas. Too much care cannot be urged upon our farmers in protecting their forest areas from fires. It is useless to plant new forests, thin old forests and attempt to regulate the cutting on forest areas, if we do not give real thought and attention to keeping fires out of forest lands.

Simple precautions are all that are necessary and once a fire starts put it out immediately and report same to the Soil Erosion Service so that fire-fighting equipment and men may be rushed to the scene before the blaze covers a large area.

Farmers are urged to cooperate with the Service in holding down fire losses in our timbered lands. This is not a hard or impossible job--but it is a job that must have our thought and attention if we are to be successful in protecting our old as well as new forest areas.



F. S. Edniston, Chief
Engineer

The following report, as of April 1, from the Engineering Department, gives some interesting figures on the progress of work:

Miles of terraces constructed.....	501.81
Number permanent terrace outlets constructed....	1,923
Number temporary terrace outlets constructed....	2,832
Square yards terrace outlets seeded and sodded	124,478
Linear feet of terrace out channels completed.	144,203
Number of temporary dams, gully control, constructed.	1,082
Number of permanent dams, gully control, constructed.	336
Square yards bank sloping, gully control, constructed	1,520,950
Linear feet diversion ditches, gully control, completed.....	450
Acres drainage area of gullies controlled.....	2,216
Acres gullied area of gullies controlled.....	124.16
Cubic yards of fills made.....	385,000

WORK OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT STANDS UP UNDER TERRIFIC TESTS

A number of torrential downpours of rain have visited the area of Project 15 during the past few weeks. That the work of the Engineering Department is practical and well done stands without question inasmuch as terraces, outlets and drainage ditches are undergoing the tests of the heavy rains in fine style.

Complete surveys of both the Minden and Ruston area after each rain bring enthusiastic testimony to the fact that the work of the Engineering department is well planned and directed.

AVERAGE RAINFALL DURING MARCH
IS ALMOST FOUR INCHES

The following report compiled by R. F. Saucer, who has charge of the rain gauges and other work pertaining to statistics concerning the water table of the area, furnishes the following information regarding rainfall during March.

Station	Average Rainfall Per Station
1.....	4.08 inches
2.....	3.39 "
3.....	3.34 "
4.....	3.84 "
5.....	4.11 "
6.....	4.59 "
7.....	3.09 "
8.....	4.25 "
<hr/>	
Total.....	30.69 inches

AVERAGE RAINFALL FOR MILDEN AREA FOR MARCH...3.85 inches.



The letter, which is reproduced below, is self explanatory. The Soil Erosion Service is ready at all times to cooperate in any way possible with individuals and groups of citizens within our area. It is not a hard job to work with the people of the Hilly community, because they are always more than ready to do their part and then some in any co-operative program of work---

The Engineering Department
Soil Erosion Service
Ruston, Louisiana

Gentlemen:

With much pleasure and appreciation, we, the people of Hilly Community, wish to thank each and every member of the Soil Erosion Service for the splendid way in which you have cooperated in making the work on the Hilly School grounds successful. We want you to know that your supervision and the furnishing of equipment really showed us your interest in us, and we wish to take this means of thanking you very much. We hope you keep this good work up and we extend you an invitation to visit us again at your convenience.

Yours truly,
THE HILLY COMMUNITY

STATE CO-ORDINATION BOARD VISITS

The State Co-ordination Board, which has for its purpose the co-ordination of work being done in the state by various Federal and State agencies, were guests of the North Louisiana project recently. The members spent an entire day making an inspection of the area, after which they were entertained with a fish and steak supper by the staff of the Service.

U. S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Minden and Ruston, Louisiana

Penalty for Private
Use to Avoid Payment
of Postage \$300.00

Name _____

Address _____

' MR. FARMER, remember that the Soil
' Erosion Service is here for your
' benefit. Every member of the staff
' is ready and anxious to be of ser-
' vice to you in whatever capacity
' you may desire. We are not here to
' tell you that your farming methods
' of the past are wrong, but to help
' you make your farming practices of
' the future better. CALL ON US.
'
